

Tom was the first black person elected to the Los Angeles City Council and he was Los Angeles' first black mayor.

The truth is I could spend the next hour reciting a list of barriers that Tom broke down. But recognizing that he was a pioneer only tells half the story. His achievements once those barriers were broken tell the rest of it.

Tom served as mayor of Los Angeles for five terms during twenty years of tremendous economic growth, rapid change, and flourishing diversity.

Tom was a terrific mayor and uniquely suited to those times. He was a consensus builder. He never practiced the politics of division. Under his stewardship, Los Angeles became the financial capital of the West Coast. It became a city that valued its multiethnic people and nurtured their entry into the middle class.

Tom was the son of a sharecropper and the grandson of a slave. He experienced the hard existence of the least fortunate of our society in the early twentieth century. From those humble beginnings, he rose to become a leader of one of the most dynamic and prosperous cities of our nation. His story is uniquely American.

I want to express my condolences to Tom's widow, Ethel, and his daughters, Phyllis and Lorraine, during this very sorrowful time.

GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Geography Awareness Week in Texas. Geography is about knowing where things are. It's about being able to read a map to find your way, calculate the time difference before making a long distance, and even situate a place heard about on the news onto your mental map of the world. But geography is also about understanding why things are located where they are. It offers perspectives and information in understanding ourselves, our relationship to the Earth's resources and our interdependence with other people of the world. By knowing geography, we can see how historical processes and present activities influence people, places and things. Geography education better prepares us to understand, interpret and find our place in this changing world at a time when tools like the Internet take us to every corner of the world with the click of a button.

This year, state geographic alliances across the country, including in my home state of Texas, are celebrating the theme: "People, Places and Patterns: Geography Puts the Pieces Together." The state of Texas has begun the task of improving geographic education by adopting state geography standards, and through the support of the teachers' organization Texas Alliance for Geographic Education, is actively working to implement these standards by disseminating new advances in teaching geography at the kindergarten through senior high level.

November 15th to 21st will be Geography Awareness Week in Texas. I urge residents to recognize the importance of geography, and to work toward the development of geographic knowledge in our schools and communities.

ANKARA'S DECISION TO SENTENCE LEYLA ZANA

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my indignation over the decision of the Turkish government to sentence Leyla Zana, the Kurdish parliamentarian who is currently serving a fifteen year sentence, to two additional years in prison as a blatant violation of the freedom of expression and an insult to her supporters worldwide.

This time, the Turkish authorities charge that Leyla Zana broke the law in a letter she wrote to the People Democracy Party (HADEP) to urge them to be forthcoming, diligent, decisive and to push for individual and collective freedoms. The fact that Leyla Zana has been charged with inciting racial hatred reveals that Turkey is a racist state and continues to deny the Kurds a voice in the state.

As my colleagues know, Leyla Zana is the first Kurdish woman ever elected to the Turkish parliament. She won her office with more than 84% of the vote in her district and brought the Turkish Grand National Assembly a keen interest for human rights and conviction that the Turkish war against the Kurds must come to an end. Last year, 153 members of this body joined together and signed a letter to President Bill Clinton urging him to raise Leyla Zana's case with the Turkish authorities and seek her immediate and unconditional release from prison.

Leyla Zana was kept in custody from March 5, 1994, until December 7, 1994 without a conviction. On December 8, 1994, the Ankara State Security Court sentenced her and five other Kurdish parliamentarians to various years in prison. Leyla Zana was accused of making a treasonous speech in Washington, D.C., other speeches elsewhere and wearing a scarf that bore the Kurdish colors of green, red and yellow. This year marks her fifth year behind the bars.

Today, in Turkish Kurdistan, 40,000 people have lost their lives. More than 3,000 Kurdish villages have been destroyed. Over 3 million residents have become destitute refugees. Despite several unilateral cease-fires by the Kurdish side, the Turkish army continues to pursue policies of hatred, torture and murder, and genocide of the Kurdish people.

Mr. Speaker, as I finish my sixth year in office as a member of the United States Congress, I find it outrageous that the government of Turkey, after so much outcry, after so much petitioning and after so much publicity would dare to punish her again incensing her friends and supporters all over the world. There is only one word that comes to my mind and it is, fear, Mr. Speaker. The government of Turkey is afraid of Leyla Zana and it thinks it can lock her away forever. That was the story of those who locked Nelson Mandela. The longest nights, Mr. Speaker, give way to bright dawns. Mr. Mandela is a public servant now. And the world is grateful.

People like Leyla Zana who utter the words of reconciliation and accommodation need to be embraced, validated and freed. I urge the government of Turkey to set aside its conviction of Leyla Zana and free her immediately, and I urge my colleagues and government to

condemn her conviction and make her release a priority.

A TRIBUTE TO SAM MEYERS

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, on November 8, 1998, Sam Meyers will be honored with a Lifetime Struggle and Achievement Award by the citizens of Central Brooklyn; however, his career is one with far-reaching significance for the national labor movement and for American progressive political leadership.

Sam Meyers, retired President of United Auto Workers Local 259, has been honored by many groups numerous times over the last few decades and all of the accolades have been deserved. Now eighty years old, he can relax with the satisfaction and assurance that he has been to the mountain top. Beyond his individual giving there are also the contributions of his wife, Carolyn, a retired East New York teacher, and his sons, Dan and Matt. Attorney Dan Meyers has devoted much of his life to the case seeking justice for the victims of the Attica assault.

Sam has been a special hero of Central Brooklyn for nearly twenty years. The Frank Barbaro campaign to unseat Koch and the victorious campaign which elected Mario Cuomo are two of the key events which forged the longstanding alliance of Sam Meyers and Major Owens. The Barbaro mayoral campaign created the opportunity, for fighters who had previously briefly met each other only on speaking platforms, to then become permanent partners for progressive politics and empowerment. Beyond his immersion in the strategy and tactics of everyday leadership for his union, Sam Meyers had a vision and acted with others to fulfill the dream of a citywide political coalition.

In the Summer of 1982, on the same day that major Owens announced the formation of the Brooklyn Coalition for Community Empowerment as his congressional campaign committee, Sam Meyers delivered a check from the United Auto Workers. It was a maximum contribution for the primary and the only such Political Action Committee donation received by the new and unknown Brooklyn political movement. Owens and his political partners—Vann, Green, Norman, Boyland—had nothing concrete that they could trade for support. Indeed, Sam Meyers, angered many powerful old friends of his when he endorsed the dissidents who were despised by the old Kings County machine.

Sam's adoptions of the Brooklyn empowerment effort was an act of political faith with roots in his mother's aspirations for a better world. Across boundaries of race, ethnicity and age, without hesitation, he applied the same principles that had guided his building of a great UAW Local 259. Always present in the mind of Brother Meyers was the credo of the street fighter. You have to believe and you have to dare.

Sam Meyers began his lifetime struggle in 1940 as a sheet metal worker and a member of UAW, Local 365. In 1943 he joined the Army Air Corps. In 1958 he led the successful fight to oust a leadership that had become too